

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 14, 2006. Claims 1 to 9 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

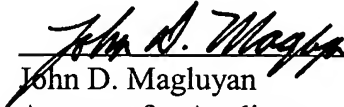
In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over JP 2003-287571 (Nagano). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicant is submitting herewith a sworn translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-107946, from which the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. In accordance with MPEP § 201.15, the Examiner is requested to confirm that Applicant is entitled to his April 11, 2003 priority date. Once the Examiner makes such a determination, the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove Nagano, which was published on October 10, 2003, as a reference against the subject application. Nagano having been so removed as a reference, the foregoing § 102(a) rejection is believed to be obviated.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 56, 867

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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